

religious. (See Matt. 7 : 14 ; Mark 8 : 34.) Those like Jeroboam who have tried to make religion an easy thing by granting indulgences, or by lessening the divine requirements have done irreparable injury to the divine cause. God said Jerusalem ; Jeroboam said Bethel and Dan.

3. *New Ministers*, v. 31. Note that God set apart the Levites who were to give themselves up to religious things, but Jeroboam felt that anybody could be a minister whether he had made any preparation for the office or not. This was a degradation of the office.

4. *A New Time for Observing an Old Festival*, vs. 32, 33. Why did he make this change? Remind the class that the sin of Jeroboam in making Israel to sin casts its dark shadow over all the history of Israel. When we sin against God we never know where it will end.

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Begin by calling for the Golden Text. Remind the scholars that this is the Second Commandment, and tell them that the Lesson is about a king, Jeroboam, who broke this Commandment. Be sure that the scholars understand how Jeroboam had become king over the ten tribes, known as the kingdom of Israel, while Rehoboam continued to rule over the kingdom of Judah. (See chs. 11 : 26-40 ; 12 : 20.) Let the conversation centre about the two questions :

1. *Of what was Jeroboam afraid?* Vs. 25-27. Question about the fortification of Shechem, the capital of Jeroboam's kingdom (elicit all possible information regarding this important place) and of Peniel east of the Jordan. Continue the conversation by discussing Jeroboam's fear lest his people should forsake him as king and return to Rehoboam. Make it clear how visiting Jerusalem, Rehoboam's

capital in the Southern kingdom of Judah, at the time of the great feasts, would influence Jeroboam's subjects to leave him for Rehoboam. Bring out the fear of Jeroboam for his own life. Jeroboam was influenced by fear lest he should lose his kingdom and be killed.

2. *What plan did Jeroboam carry out?* Vs. 28-33. Have the scholars describe the making of the two calves of gold (v. 28), and tell the reason which the king gave to the people for using these in their worship of God. Let the two places, Bethel and Dan (v. 29), in which the images were set up, be pointed out on the map, and get the scholars to give you all the information they can about them, supplementing this out of your additional knowledge. Take up the words, "This thing became a sin," and show how Jeroboam, in setting up calves, led in the breaking of the Second Commandment, which forbids the use of images in the worship of God. Point out, also, how the people would come to regard and worship the images themselves as gods and would thus break the First Commandment. Show, from v. 30, how universally the people took up the new worship.

Follow out the additional provisions made by Jeroboam (vs. 31-33) in connection with the calf worship,—the building of temples for the images, the appointment of priests from tribes other than the tribe of Levi, the appointment of a feast to take the place of the Feast of Tabernacles which God had appointed, the king's offering sacrifices and burning incense at Bethel to inaugurate the services.

Call attention, in closing, to the phrases, "in his heart" (v. 26) and "his own heart," v. 33. Everything evil in conduct begins with something wrong in the heart. Urge each scholar to see that his heart is right, pointing him to the one who alone can make it right.

### ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

#### Something to Look Up

1. Read in Leviticus about the Feast of Tabernacles.

2. "Keep yourselves from idols," wrote the apostle John. Find the words.

ANSWERS, Lesson VI.—(1) Prov. 25 : 4. (2) Prov. 15 : 1.

#### For Discussion

1. Does the worship of idols exist amongst ourselves?

2. Has the state any rightful authority over the church?